



RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Richard Roundtree

Law Enforcement Center

400 Walton Way

Augusta, GA 30901

Phone: 706.821.1000 Fax: 706.821.1064

June 3, 2013

**To the Citizens of
Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia**

Dear Citizens of Augusta-Richmond County:

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office is in the process of applying for funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY 2013 Local Solicitation Program. This grant has replaced the former Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program, which is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of these programs is to provide funds to units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety.

For seventeen years, the Richmond County Sheriff's Office has utilized the LLEBG and JAG funding programs to hire deputies, purchase mobile radio equipment, law enforcement vehicles, and purchase and maintain Mobile Data Terminals for our Field Operations and Criminal Investigations Divisions' vehicles. **It is our desire to utilize the funding available in the 2013 JAG program to purchase Conducted Electrical Weapons (Tasers).**

As a prerequisite to approval, the citizens of Augusta-Richmond County must be given an opportunity to review the application process and provide feedback. With this in mind, I ask you to review the proposal for funding on the following pages. Simply put, this funding program offers our agency **\$90,191** to support the **RCSO Taser Program** over the next three years, **with no requirement to spend any local tax dollars** (referred to as a "local match").

If you would like to provide feedback or make an inquiry or comment regarding this funding program, please contact Captain Chester V. Huffman at (706) 821-1577, or email to chuffman@augustaga.gov.

With kindest regards, I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Roundtree", is written over a faint, large watermark of the Richmond County Sheriff's Office seal.

Richard Roundtree
Sheriff, Richmond County, Georgia

RR/ch

**EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

JAG

FY 2013 LOCAL SOLICITATION

**LOCAL PUBLIC
APPLICATION REVIEW**



Richard Roundtree, Sheriff
Richmond County Georgia

Prepared & Submitted

June 3, 2013

Application # 2013-H4272-GA-DJ

FUNDING PURPOSE – Purchase of Conducted Electrical Weapons (Tasers)

TIME TABLE – The funding period for this grant is four years. Awards are made in the first fiscal year of the appropriation and may be expended during the following three years, for a total of four years. Extensions beyond this period may be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Director of BJA. This program will be active from the award date (to be determined) through September 30, 2016, however; it the intention of the RCSO to expend all funds from this program as soon as possible after the award.

PROPOSED PROGRAM ACTIVITY – Purchase Tasers

During the span of this funding program, the Richmond County Sheriff's Office proposes to purchase 61 Conducted Electrical Weapons (Tasers). These sixty-one units will be added to the Richmond County Sheriff's Office Taser Program as the agency progresses towards the ultimate goal of 100% total issuance to all sworn/certified Sheriff's Deputies.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The 2013 JAG Program funding will be used in its entirety towards the purchase of 61 Conducted Electrical Weapons (Tasers) and associated supporting items (holsters, batteries, cartridges, warranties). **The amount of available federal funding is \$90,191. There is no local match requirement.** The entire amount will allow the RCSO to purchase and sixty-one Taser devices without impacting local tax dollars. The itemized list for purchase is below:

<u>Other Costs</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Taser (Model X2)	61	\$978.00	\$59,658.00
Tactical Performance Power Magazine	61	\$51.55	\$3,144.55
Blackhawk Holster X2	61	\$61.95	\$3,778.95
Four (4) Year Extended Warranty	61	\$308.99	\$18,848.39
Taser 25' Live Smart Cartridge	143	\$29.95	\$4,282.85
Freight	1	\$478.26	\$478.26
Grand Total			\$90,171.00

PROGRAM NEED

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office firmly believes that the possession and use of Tasers throughout the agency (Road Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Detention Services, Court Services, et al) will result in fewer injuries – law enforcement officer, offender, and citizen – by minimizing physical confrontation and contact. The use (or merely the threatened use) of this less-than-lethal weapon has been studied, documented and published by various groups, with supporting evidence that incidents and injuries are reduced in agencies that deploy this weapon. Less contact-incidents and injuries equate to less medical expenses, less time away from the job, and more offender compliance. The following examples further illustrate the desire of the Richmond County Sheriff's Office to become a full-time CEW agency:

- A 2009 study conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) showed that the use of CEW's is associated with a **70-percent reduction in the chances of an officer being injured** compared to agencies that do not use CEW's. Additionally, this study reflected that **the odds of a suspect being injured are reduced by more than 40 percent** in CEW agencies compared to non-CEW agencies.
- Also in 2009, the American Medical Association reported that Tasers, when used appropriately, can save lives during interventions that would have otherwise involved the use of deadly force.

From the American Journal of Public Health (December 2009):

The Effect of Less-Lethal Weapons on Injuries in Police Use-of-Force Events

Objectives. We investigated the effect of the use of less-lethal weapons, **conductive energy devices (CEDs)**, and oleoresin capsaicin (OC) spray on the prevalence and incidence of injuries to police officers and civilians in encounters involving the use of force.

Methods. We analyzed data from 12 police departments that documented injuries to officers and civilians in 24,380 cases. We examined monthly injury rates for 2 police departments before and after their adoption of CEDs.

Results. Odds of injury to civilians and officers were significantly lower when police used CED weapons, after control for differences in case attributes and departmental policies restricting use of these weapons. **Monthly incidence of injury in 2 police departments declined significantly, by 25% to 62%, after adoption of CED devices.**

Conclusions. Injuries sustained during police use-of-force events affect thousands of police officers and civilians in the United States each year. Incidence of these injuries can be reduced dramatically when law enforcement agencies responsibly employ less-lethal weapons in lieu of physical force.

John M. MacDonald, Robert J. Kaminski, and Michael R. Smith. *The Effect of Less-Lethal Weapons on Injuries in Police Use-of-Force Events. American Journal of Public Health: December 2009, Vol. 99, No. 12, pp. 2268-2274.*